Hello everyone!

Fall semester is rapidly approaching and the campus is already buzzing with activities! Being used the quarter system for the past 10 years, with the fall term starting only in September, I anticipated having a culture shock of sorts starting back up in mid-August. But as it turns out, I am so ready to get started and am looking forward to opening week starting on August 19th and then a very special Opening Day on August 21st, Wednesday.

This year Opening Day is on Wednesday rather than Friday with activities planned, conference style, for the whole day. Also the campus will be closed to the public on Wednesday to help all of us, classified, faculty and managers to participate in the plenary sessions as well as in the breakout sessions. Please note that the college is not closed; just closed to the public. The Centennial committee wanted me to let you know that they are planning on a surprise for those attending.

We’ll start our Opening Day celebration at 8 a.m. in the Fireside Room and Cafeteria with breakfast for everyone. At that time, we’ll go into morning sessions which highlight the achievements of Bakersfield College over the last year and provide a sneak peek of Centennial events for the year. We’ll also introduce the first six of our 100 Stars – stellar individuals from Bakersfield College’s past or present who have made a difference on the campus, in the community, or in education. We will also hear from some of our retirees as they share BC stories from times past. The morning activities will conclude with a history tour and the cutting of the birthday cake by the four living presidents of BC.

Chef Coyle and Chef Gomez are planning on lunch for the whole campus which starts at 11:30. After lunch we will move into our afternoon plenary in the cafeteria where you will hear from the leaders of our constituent groups as well as from the Levinson and Trembley award winners. College Council will be unveiling the updated Core Values as well as the Strategic Focus document. I will brief you on the state of the college and what is in store for 2013-2014.

The Centennial Celebration committee will have Centennial books for sale for $20.13, and red or white Centennial rose bushes will be for sale for $30. The committee can take cash, check, or credit card, and these are only available while supplies last.
**OPENING DAY SCHEDULE**

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast in Fireside Room/Cafeteria
8:30 a.m. – Opening Session
10:30 a.m. – Break
10:45 a.m. – Birthday Cake and Campus Tour
11:30 a.m. – Lunch
12:30 p.m. – Afternoon Session
2:30 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

Let’s come together on August 21st and get our centennial year started in community. Let’s pack the cafeteria, catch up with colleagues, mingle with our retirees and just enjoy our day together.

Looking forward to seeing all 717 faculty and staff.

With Renegade pride and collegiality.

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